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It occurs in a liquid and a solid form. In either form this serum must be dispensed in vials only, with the official hermetic seal, with the name and place of manufacture, stating the antitoxin contents of 1 cubic centimeter, the total contents of 1 vial, the control number, and the day of its official examination.

These vials are packed so as to exclude the light; the packages must also give the above information.

The seals bear on one side an eagle or a lion. The other side gives the total contents of immunizing units.

#### ITALY.

##### *Law in regard to the production and sale of therapeutic serums, 1899.*

Article 1. No one shall, without consent of the minister of the interior, prepare for sale (a) vaccine; (b) virus; (c) therapeutic serums, and (d) toxins, antitoxins, and other similar preparations. The conditions for this consent and the special instructions in regard to the preparation and sale, shall be determined by the Government after hearings from the council of health.

Art. 2. The above-named preparations shall undergo for the determination of their value, a competent test by a scientist attached to the health department, or some other laboratory, who shall be named by the minister of the interior upon recommendation of the imperial health council. It shall be decided on the recommendation of the health council, which preparations shall be tested, and from what point of view.

Art. 3. The sale of the preparations indicated in article 1, and products prepared abroad, shall take place in the limits of the Kingdom only by permission of the minister of the interior, with the consent of the superior council of health, under the conditions of the above ordinance.

Art. 4. Infraction of these requirements and of the order contained in article 1, shall be punished by a fine of from 100 to 500 lire. In case of repeated offense, imprisonment for as much as twenty days may be imposed in addition to the fine. The above named penalties are inflicted without detriment to the penalties previously imposed by government officials for the protection of the public health and provided for in the penal code.

#### RUSSIA.

The commission for the prevention of the introduction of the plague, has, at its sitting of May 3, left the preparation of antipest serum with bacteriological institutions which have given the necessary guarantees, on condition—

1. That no money shall be paid by the Crown to such establishments;
2. That no obstacles shall be placed by the local authorities in the way of the preparation of these serums;
3. That the serum shall be prepared harmlessly—that is to say, by means of dead microorganisms or toxins, and not by means of living cultures;
4. That the serum prepared shall, before being sent from the imperial institute of experimental medicine, be tested, and
5. That the commission reserves the right of disposal of the serums to the places and institutions which have the most need of it.

The withdrawal from the custom houses of serum from abroad, ordered by private persons, is permitted by the commission on condition that in each case a statement of the place of manufacture shall accompany the consignment, and that only serums from institutions, the names of which shall be furnished to the customs officers by the president of the commission, shall be admitted.

#### THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF SCARLET FEVER.

[Prepared under the direction of the surgeon-general by P. A. Surg. H. D. Geddings, Acting Director Hygienic Laboratory.]

In view of the receipt by the Bureau of inquiries from various sources as to measures looking to the prevention of the spread of scarlet fever, and methods of disinfection to be followed upon the termination of cases of the disease, there is reproduced here a publication which appeared in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS of December 13, 1901, by P. A. Surg. H. D. Geddings, U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, upon methods of disinfection to be pursued against scarlet fever, to which is appended a circular letter by Acting Asst. Surg. J. Y. Porter, State health officer of Florida, to local health officers and the medical profession in his State—the one article naturally supplementing the other.

##### *Disinfection against scarlet fever.*

[By H. D. GEDDINGS, Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.]

In the consideration of this subject, as in all other subjects connected with disinfection, the two general factors must be considered of the nature of the infection and the best means for destroying it.

As is well known, infection or communicability may be of two general varieties—the immediate, in which the disease is communicated by actual contact, and the mediate, in which the infection is communicated to articles or things and thence transmitted to others.

The infection of scarlet fever is of both natures. Immediate infection certainly can occur by the contact of a susceptible person with one suffering with the disease, but still more probable is it that the infection is highly mediate in its character and is communicated to the surroundings of the patient, furniture of rooms, bedding, clothing, etc., largely through the fine, scaly particles, which are given off by the patient and diffused with the dust of the room. This desquamation constitutes the essentially dangerous feature of scarlet fever from the point of view of the health officer, for even after his desquamatory process has been apparently completed it may be renewed and the patient again become capable of conveying infection. The poison clings with great persistency to clothing of all kinds and the furniture of a room, specially that which is upholstered. It is exceedingly tenacious in its character, and clothing which has been put away for months, or even for years, may, unless thoroughly disinfected, again convey contagion.

Observations which have been made from time to time show that the disease has been often transmitted through the medium of the milk supply, and recent experience in Detroit, Mich., has shown that even when the milk supply was not at fault the disease has been communicated through the medium of milk tickets which were repeatedly used.

The specific germ of the disease is not known. Therefore, disinfec-